

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SPACE SCIENCE BOARD

June 22, 1961

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
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School of Medicine
Stanford University
Palo Alto, California

Dear Joshua:

Recently the United States Information Agency asked me to help them develop a series of lectures for radio presentation on the general subject of space science and exploration. It appears to me that their approach is a sensible and useful one, and accordingly I have agreed to do what I can to help them get together some lectures, and I told them that I would as much as possible turn to scientists who had contributed to the special issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists because much of this material is so readily adaptable.

I am writing to you in the hope that you can contribute to this series, dealing with the subject of exobiology. Because the intent of the series is a serious scientific one and you will not be called upon to engage in mere popularization, I feel that you can rather easily capitalize upon the Bulletin essay for the present purpose. Rather than try to describe the general approach, it's much simpler to give you some examples. Three are enclosed -- two in a biology series (mimeograph text) and one in the chemistry series (printed form). The talks are scheduled for half an hour so that the text runs about 3000 words. As to some details:

The Forum Series on Space Science and Exploration will consist of some twenty addresses. The list of proposed topics and lecturers is enclosed. The lectures are all oriented around the "space age," its problems and opportunities, and the significance to date and forthcoming of space tools to science and its applications. Your lecture could make excellent use of the Bulletin material, going into the subject much along the ~~same~~ general lines, with such additions, deletions, and changes as you deem appropriate for a lecture at the present time. Perhaps you will feel that you and Novick ought to do it together, but I don't see how this works out for a lecture series. I do hope that you can do it because USIA is so interested in you personally for this particular lecture.

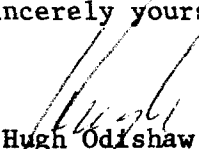
The lectures will be taped and then shipped abroad for presentation over the Voice of America. The taping will be done at your convenience either in Washington or at a local radio station. In Washington, you would go to the USIA studios; if a local station is more convenient, the USIA will make suitable arrangements. Because USIA would like to start the program on November 1, the recordings would have to be made sometime between now and around the early part of October.

The printed version of the talks is exemplified by the enclosure of Harrison Brown's lecture. Experience has shown that there is a great deal of interest among intellectuals and scientists abroad in having the text. Therefore the USIA plans to issue the talks in this printed form. In order to get the printing job done, a manuscript of your talk would be needed just as soon as you could get to it -- July would be ideal.

I do hope that you can contribute to the series, for the lectures -- in oral and printed forms -- should be most helpful for better public understanding of space science and carry also good connotations from an international relations point of view. It is also quite likely that the series may see book version. Finally, the USIA would provide its usual honorarium of two hundred and fifty dollars as a token of appreciation. May I hear from you soon on this?

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,


Hugh Odishaw
Executive Director

Encl.

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United States Information Agency
Forum Series on Space Science and Exploration

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Lecturer</u>
Solar terrestrial relationships	Herbert Friedman
Geodetic research	G. P. Woollard
Applied geodesy	O. S. Williams
Auroral physics	J. V. Chamberlain
Space research and meteorology	Harry Wexler
Space satellites and weather forecasting	D. S. Johnson
Geomagnetism	J. P. Hopper
Van Allen Radiation Belts and near space	J. A. Van Allen
Interplanetary medium	J. A. Simpson
Galactic and extragalactic astronomy	Lynn Spitzer
Microbiology	J. Lederberg
Space biology	Colin Pittendrigh
Man in space	C. J. Lombertsen
Communications	John R. Pierce
Gravitation	R. H. Dicke
Sun	Lee Goldberg
Planets, particularly Mars and Venus	G. de Vaucouleurs
Lunar investigations	Gordon J. F. MacDonald